

# **Policy-related capacities of Czech political parties: the case of shadow ministers in the field of education**

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## **Abstract**

Education is one of the most significant of public policies because it has a crucial impact on the future of the society. Thus, the Ministry of Education represents one of the key departments and political parties are expected to provide highly qualified experts to manage this position. This thesis is focused on the topic of experts of the parties in the Czech republic with special highlight on the shadow ministers, alternatively on relevant spokespersons. The shadow governments provide one possible source of the responsible experts for the political parties since they can prepare their members for the function of a minister through training of their practical skills. However, this thesis focuses mainly on the shadow ministers of the following parties in the Czech republic: ČSSD, KDU-ČSL, KSČM, ODS and TOP 09. Considering that this agenda of those parties has not been studied thoroughly, this thesis is therefore an exploratory study. The political parties also feature expert knowledge with specialized committees for those areas and most of the chairmen of such committees are the leaders in education agenda of those parties. This case study proves the shadow ministers meet the special requirements for the expert positions and have an essential position within their parties. The majority of them also leads the expert committees of the parties.